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BOYD HOUSE

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Points of Contact

Accommodation
Alumni and Past Fellows may book accommodation in College via the website: www.chu.cam.ac.uk/conferences/services/bandb/
Alternatively please telephone the Conference Office on +44 (0)1223 336164 or email: accommodation@chu.cam.ac.uk

Alumni Relations Office
alumni@chu.cam.ac.uk
Alumni Officer: +44 (0)1223 336083

Development Director
Francisca Malarée
dev.director@chu.cam.ac.uk
+44 (0)1223 336197

Churchill Review Editor
review.editor@chu.cam.ac.uk

Development Office
development@chu.cam.ac.uk
Development Officer: +44 (0)1223 336240

High Table Bookings
If you would like to dine at High Table, please complete the form at www.chu.cam.ac.uk/alumni/high-table/. Please email alumni@chu.cam.ac.uk if you have any queries about this.

Porters’ Lodge
+44 (0)1223 336000

Møller Centre
Accommodation at the Møller Centre may be booked directly by telephone on +44 (0)1223 465500 or email at reception.moller@chu.cam.ac.uk

Shopping at Amazon
You can easily support the College when shopping at Amazon through Amazon Smile. Every time you shop with Amazon (on a browser rather than app), please navigate to smile.amazon.co.uk. The first time you do this you can select Churchill College from the list of charities. This will remain selected each time you log in to smile.amazon and for every item that is purchased by you, Amazon will make a donation to the College at no additional expense.

Find us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube.

Help us stay in contact with you and keep your details up to date at: www.chu.cam.ac.uk/alumni/update-your-contact-details
Welcome to this year’s edition of the Development and Alumni Newsletter. It has been a year of achievements for the College but also a time for reflection as we remember those who have made great contributions in the past.

We were all deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Sir John Boyd, who was the College’s fifth Master, from 1996 until 2006. Sir John was an accomplished diplomat and linguist who served in Asia and in the USA before he came to lead the College. He was also a Trustee and former Chairman of Trustees of the British Museum. An obituary is published here on p.18.

The College last year decided to name two of the new graduate houses after Sir John and Sir David Wallace, another former Master and we were sorry that Sir John was unable to attend the opening due to his illness.

The three new houses were opened in September 2019 by the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Stephen Toope, and are a great addition to the accommodation we are able to provide on site. We can now provide housing for all of our graduate students who want it for up to two years, so students can access all the facilities on our campus within a campus. This creates an even more welcoming environment for graduate students who come here without prior experience of Cambridge.

Cottrell and Vermeulen, the firm who designed the award-winning Bondi, Broers and Hawthorne houses (also known as the ‘pepperpots’) designed the new houses – the lead architects are two of our own, Simon Tucker (U86) and Priscilla Fernandes (U04). In the design there are nods to our original buildings, with features including maple floors and terrazzo window seats, as well as the Arts and Crafts houses of Storey’s Way.

We also formally opened the Xiaotian Fu garden in 2019, which brings two beautiful stones from the Three Gorges area of China to the College and creates a new outside space for study and contemplation in the garden of 72 Storey’s Way. In the summer months, when the flowers are in full bloom, it looks absolutely wonderful.

As well as these enhancements to our physical surroundings, we have marked some milestones academically. Though there is no formal ranking the College any longer, once again the data suggests we came fifth in the academic league table of the 25 Colleges which teach undergraduates at Cambridge – it has been an average of 5th in the last ten years. We are also delighted that, in line with our deliberate attempts to increase diversity and widen participation, we have a greater proportion of women students admitted this year at 42%, up from 37% last year; and of our UK undergraduates joining this year, over 75% were from the maintained (state) sector.

Our Fellows continue to excel in research and win awards. Professor Lisa Jardine-Wright won the Institute of Physics’ Lawrence Bragg Prize (along with Professor Mark Warner) for setting up Isaac Physics (www.isaacphysics.org), an online resource which has revolutionised teaching of physics, particularly for students in schools which suffer from a shortage of qualified teaching staff. Our Fellow Sander van den Linden is featured in this newsletter for his widely-cited work on fake news; Dr Javier Moya has developed an eco-friendly new type of refrigerant; Archivist Allen Packwood’s book on How Churchill Waged War has received critical acclaim, as has David Speigelhalter’s Art of Statistics.

2020 marks the 60th Anniversary of the formal foundation of Churchill College. However, as we go to print, the world is facing huge challenges due to the coronavirus pandemic. We have had to put our events programme on hold for the foreseeable future. We hope that when we come through this crisis, you will be able to come and join us for one of our rescheduled 60th Anniversary events. Our thoughts are with all our alumni and friends, particularly those directly affected and who are involved in the provision of essential services, especially healthcare.

Our original ambitions were to raise more funds this year for the endowment and for student support in particular, along with the initiative of the Creative Hub which will be a fantastic new interdisciplinary resource and adventure. In the meantime, the College is essentially empty, the students, who can, have returned to their homes around the world. A few who cannot get home, or for whom the College is home, are still here and we will be supporting these even as most of our staff necessarily work from home. The College, like every organisation, will be taking a massive financial hit. Our endowment
is crucial to seeing us through this crisis when our income has disappeared. Of this I am, however, sure: the College will come back stronger than ever.

As one of the larger Colleges in Cambridge we have ambition to increase our endowment by at least 50% in the next ten years – as you may be aware the endowment (our invested assets) underpins all our activity and as a source of funding gives us financial security especially as government funding has reduced significantly in recent years.

There is more about the Hub on p6. It unites our past – CP Snow’s ‘two cultures’ lecture took place at the College’s inception and he was a Founding Fellow – and our future. It will combine strands of the arts and sciences, in a creative space where students from any discipline will be able to collaborate to make products, art installations as well as use the latest printing and CAD technology. Although facilities such as these are available in some departments, there are students who will not have access to them because they are studying a different subject – it is only within a College that the disciplines can truly mix, and Churchill will be the first College in Oxford or Cambridge to offer such a space.

In terms of student support, you will read later in this newsletter of some of the ways alumni are helping students reach their full potential by funding bursaries, and how our admissions team have made a tremendous effort to increase applications (not just to Churchill, but Russell Group institutions) from diverse groups through their outreach and widening participation work. Ensuring that all students, if attaining the academic standard required of Cambridge, have financial support to encourage them to come here is an essential part of the College’s mission, and has been since its foundation. This is an endeavour shared by our alumni community too, for which we are tremendously grateful. We are delighted that, prompted by a lead of an alumnus/a from their year and helped by a matching fund, the classes of 1977-81 raised over £105,000 to endow the 1977-81 Bursary in perpetuity at the College.

2020 will be a time to mark our achievements as an institution, to celebrate the ideas and the people connected to the College that have changed the world through innovation, social enterprise and research as well as through teaching the next generation. While we celebrate the past we will also be looking forward to prepare for the challenges the next sixty years will bring.

Professor Dame Athene Donald DBE, FRS
Master

The College elected Dr Eddie Powell (U67) to a Benefactor Fellowship in 2019.

Dr Powell, came up to Churchill in 1967 to read natural sciences and stayed on to do a PhD in inorganic chemistry. Following his time at Cambridge, Eddie changed direction and studied in London for an accountancy qualification. In 1978, he moved to Frankfurt for two years, working for two subsidiaries of a UK group. That was followed by eight years as finance director of a company in the Marconi Group (part of GEC) and ten years as group finance director of the light engineering company Colt on the south coast. In 2000 Eddie joined Abcam, a start-up company in Cambridge. Abcam went public in 2005. Eddie retired in 2007, having benefited from a hugely exciting and enjoyable experience with the company. Since then, he has been involved with several start-up companies in Cambridge and has served on the College’s Finance Committee.

He has supported the College financially in significant ways, especially through the donation of shares in Abcam. He has also supported the Palestinian Studentship fund and Churchill College boat club.

College Welcomes New Benefactor Fellow

L to R: The Master with Eddie and Ruth Powell

CHURCHILL COLLEGE NEWSLETTER 2019
Development Priorities

The College will mark 60 years since it admitted its first students in 2020. A series of events is planned and the schedule will be advertised later in the year.

As well as marking Churchill College’s many achievements over those years, including 32 members who have won the Nobel prize, excelling at educating undergraduates who come from diverse backgrounds, and maintaining an Archives Centre of international importance, we are aiming to raise £1 million for each decade of the College’s existence, with a £6 million fundraising campaign. The main aims of this are detailed below.

The endowment

The College’s endowment is now at around £100 million held in equities and excluding the College’s property assets. The endowment generates around £3 million (depending on investment performance) most years which is essential to fund our core activity. The College in FY ending 30 June 2018 (the latest audited accounts) spent £5.5 million on educating its students (including its subsidy of accommodation and its funding of the supervision system), but income from fees was £3.9 million. The gap in funding of approximately £1.6 million is plugged by the endowment, donations and profits made from conference activity. The endowment also includes bursaries and studentships, and the unrestricted endowment amount is more limited.

The College is on a secure financial footing, but would have far greater flexibility in terms of its strategic planning if our unrestricted endowment were to grow significantly. It would enable us to face any unexpected expenses more flexibly and give us a greater degree of freedom from political interference. Therefore we especially appreciate gifts to the endowment that are not restricted and can be invested for the long term financial sustainability of the College.

More information about the endowment is to be found in the College’s published accounts, which can be viewed online at www.chu.cam.ac.uk/about/official-documents

Supporting our students

As mentioned previously, we are constantly striving to ensure we have enough bursary provision for our undergraduates, so that no student is deterred from applying to Churchill because they are fearful of debt or the overall cost of their education. As well as the endowed bursaries we have referred to, any amount can be donated to our general undergraduate student bursaries. You can read more about how the bursary funding, and our most recent campaign ‘Opening Doors’ has been going on pp. 8–9.

We are also pleased that thanks to the Harding Challenge Fund, from an alumnus of St Catharine’s, any donations to student support made by alumni who have not previously contributed to the College through a financial gift are matched into a central pot which will release extra Cambridge University funding to undergraduates at Churchill College.

We have two major initiatives for Bursary funding. We have excelled as a College around student bursaries. Churchill has approximately 100 undergraduates receiving Cambridge Bursaries, the majority receiving a full bursary (£3,500/year). Many of those have family incomes lower than £35,000 per year – we are proud that we have been able to offer extra support to these students and will continue raising funds for bursaries to do so.

Funding the Cambridge Bursaries currently costs the College £250,000–£300,000 per year from unrestricted funds, though there are a growing number that are now funded by specific bursaries which are endowed (for example the Lock Bursary Fund). To endow these bursary funds fully would cost £8.75 million; therefore the more donations we can attract to student support funds, the better, either as general donations to the student support fund or as endowed funds for named bursaries.

Adding more donations to the Student Support Fund helps students in any subject by helping us to fund our Cambridge Bursary commitments, and hardship grants to all students in need. We are also committed to funding top-up bursaries, through the Winston Churchill Top-Up Bursaries which are for those students receiving a full Cambridge bursary and whose parental
income is less than £25,000 per annum. The top-up bursaries, of £1,500–£2,000 per student, can make all the difference for recipients as they are able to focus on academic work, rather than earning money through the Easter vacations. We aim to raise at least £80,000 per year to fund these bursaries.

1960 Club

Those donating £1,960 per year for Student Support will be eligible to join the 1960 Club, as this funds most of our Winston Churchill Top-Up Bursaries. For more information please see the alumni website at https://www.chu.cam.ac.uk/alumni/giving-college/1960-club/

Postgraduate funding

We also are fundraising for studentships to support postgraduates. There is unfortunately very little funding available from research councils for advanced students in the arts and humanities. We also wish to ensure we do not lose our brightest undergraduates to other Colleges who can fund their research. Therefore we aim to endow studentships, and any contribution to the general endowment funds to support graduates is most welcome. The minimum cost of fully funding a postgraduate is around £20,000 per year minimum, and more than this in certain science subjects. The endowment sums required are therefore around £1 million per studentship. This is an excellent way of ensuring an academic career does not become the preserve of the wealthy once more.

We are pleased to include a summary of how a student has been helped in this way on p.8.

Creative Hub

The Creative Hub will host a dynamic programme of events and create a platform geared towards bridging academic disciplines, and forging new collaborations, so that our students can better respond to the challenges of the 21st century.

Students of all disciplines, undergraduates and postgraduates, will have the opportunity to make things together. The Hub will be a place for creativity and innovation, including a multi-purpose project space, to explore, design, test, scale, build and present ideas – technical, social, artistic and more. It is also aimed at engaging the widest possible audience, both local, national and international, developing an active communication and exhibition strategy as well as a reputation for excellence.

Much more than a building project, this will be a facility unique to Churchill College, providing a ‘maker’ space in the disused oil store next to the squash courts at the front (Storey’s Way) entrance to the College. It has been designed by the pioneering architecture collective ‘Assemble’ who won the Turner Prize for Contemporary Art in 2015, and includes Joseph Halligan (U06) a Churchill alumnus in architecture as one of its leaders. The Creative Hub will include workshops, both digital and traditional, with equipment to enable students to experiment with different techniques to bring artistic and design projects to fruition. To support the various projects it is intended to have a technician on hand to offer advice, skills and training. Although many University departments have their own workshops, Churchill will be the only Oxbridge College that has such a facility for truly interdisciplinary endeavours.

The costs of the Hub are £3.58 million including endowment to fund the post of the Creative Hub director and project manager, and provide budgets for them to work with.

Breakdown of Hub costs:

Costs

We have up-to-date costs, including a surveyor’s assessment of the building cost, including VAT, contingencies and all professional fees. The floor area of the Hub is 138 square metres.

Capital expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Costs</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building work</td>
<td>£750,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment and fittings</td>
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Required endowment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Costs</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For director (40% fte)</td>
<td>£860,000 to generate £30,000 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For technicians</td>
<td>£860,000 to generate £30,000 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For running costs</td>
<td>£860,000 to generate £30,000 per year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: £3.58 million
Last year the College performed well academically, financially and operationally. In total the College educated 854 undergraduate and graduate students. The academic performance of the students remained strong, 34.7% of the undergraduates obtained a First and 42.5% a 2:1. Churchill has maintained its place in the top quartile of all Cambridge Colleges for Tripos results. The commercial business has had a successful year with their profits contributing to the education costs for the students and providing much-needed bursaries. The last 5 years the commercial income has remained at a healthy level and the positive impact of room availability of Cowan Court has had a clear influence.

As the College’s income from students is not sufficient to fund the education costs of the College, the College is reliant on its donations and conference business to meets its regular financial needs.

### INCOME/EXPENDITURE 2017–18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>£’000</th>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment income</td>
<td>2,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fee and academic income</td>
<td>3,924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating charges (rent/conferences etc)</td>
<td>7,248</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>3,859</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>17,131</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>5,481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence, catering and conference</td>
<td>7,041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional fees</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution under statute G (University)*</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (incl Archives)</td>
<td>1,643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>14,319</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net I&E                      | 2,812 |

### Donations

During 2017–18 we were very grateful to all our alumni and supporters who kindly donated to the College. In total we received £3.87 million in donations from 1673 donors. This includes a significant number of new donors whom we hope will continue to support the College.

### Endowment and investment performance

The College's investments delivered a total return of 7.6% over the year, compared with 18.6% in 2016–17. The Colleges investment portfolio includes a number of equity and exchange traded funds. The total value of investments held by the College was £109 million at the year end compared with £95.2 million last year.

* redistribution for poorer Colleges

### 1977–81 Bursary endowed

We are thrilled to announce that donations to a class gift by those who returned for their reunion in July last year, reached the target and have therefore successfully endowed a full bursary for an undergraduate.

We received over £97,000 in donations and pledges in the space of five months, and as some of the donations were matched through the telethon, we have now reached over £110,000 in endowed funds.

The fund will support a UK or EU (under present regulations) undergraduate, by giving a bursary of £3,500 per year for living costs. After consultation with the year group, we have agreed on a name of ‘The 1977–81 Bursary’. Bursaries are means-tested and are awarded to those whose parental income is under £42,000 per year, while full bursaries of £3,500 are awarded to those whose parental income is less than £35,000.

The alumni of the year felt that as they had benefited from being at the College, and with students now facing debts of well over £9,000 per year, they would like to continue to encourage as diverse a field of applicants as possible at Churchill. Thanks to the support of over 120 alumni from the years, the first bursary should be awarded in the next academic year.

We’re particularly grateful to Peter Hughes (U77), Anne Morrison (U78), Simon Henry (U79), Niall McLeod (U79), Shaun Parker (U80) and Susie Clements (U81) for championing this cause amongst their years.
Student Support

One of our fundraising priorities is to fund studentships. We are delighted that we have been able to fund more of these thanks to support from individual donors, for example the Yuval-Gulbenkian Scholarship funds international students in any subject. Below we include accounts from two postgraduates who have been helped to continue their studies thanks to support from the College.

Ben Ashbridge (G17)

Ben is from Lancaster and is currently studying for a PhD at Churchill. He attended state-funded Lancaster Royal Grammar School and achieved a First for his undergraduate degree in history at St Andrews before applying to study for an MPhil in World History at Churchill.

The Churchill College Archives Studentship that Ben was awarded for his MPhil covered his course fees and living expenses, and he is in no doubt about the profound impact that receiving the Studentship had on his life:

‘I wouldn’t be studying for my PhD at Cambridge if the College hadn’t funded me for my MPhil. Before I received the funding my mum was talking about re-mortgaging the house because it was such a huge opportunity – no-one in my family has ever been to Oxbridge – but I wouldn’t have let her. The opportunities you get and the people you meet here at Cambridge have been unbelievable. For example, Professor David Maxwell is one of the biggest names in my field of study and he is now my supervisor’.

Ben was awarded a Distinction for his MPhil and applied to stay on at Churchill for his PhD so he could continue to benefit from the College’s supportive postgraduate community. He hugely values the relaxed but stimulating atmosphere at Churchill: ‘everyone here is so smart – it’s exciting to be a part of it’.

Read Ben’s full story: www.chu.cam.ac.uk/graduate-studentship-endowment-fund

Kathrin Wunderlich (G16)

Kathrin Wunderlich first arrived at Churchill to study for an MPhil in European, Latin American and Comparative Literatures and Cultures before beginning her PhD in German Studies.

Originally from the Black Forest region of Germany, Kathrin’s journey to Cambridge began when she came to the UK to attend a language school. Kathrin went on to complete a BA in Comparative Literature at the University of Kent where she received multiple awards for her work. Keen to continue her studies, she applied to Cambridge in the hope that she could secure the funding she urgently needed, and was overjoyed to be awarded fully funded Studentships for her MPhil and PhD: ‘I would never have been able to afford studying and living in Cambridge without a scholarship’.

Kathrin’s MPhil was supported by the MML MPhil Funding Award and the Cambridge Schröder MPhil Scholarship at Churchill College and her PhD is jointly funded by Churchill College and the Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC).

Kathrin’s research focuses on contemporary German-language writing on war and conflict, specifically the wars in Yugoslavia, Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as the War on Terror which resulted from the events of September 11th, 2001. She is particularly interested in literature that engages with these events and narratively negotiates them against the backdrop of the lasting legacies of National Socialism.

None of this would have been possible without the funding that enabled her to come to Cambridge in the first place, and she is clear about the vital importance of providing similar opportunities for other postgraduate students in future:

‘Studentships ensure that the College retains its invaluable and enriching mixture of students from different disciplines and from different socio-economic and demographically and culturally-diverse backgrounds. I believe it is the coming together of the various disciplines and of different people with different backgrounds that creates the personal growth experiences we all benefit from as part of College life’.

Read Kathrin’s full story: www.chu.cam.ac.uk/graduate-studentship-endowment-fund

Undergraduate funding

We are proud to have a large number of bursaries, within the Cambridge Bursary Scheme, that are funded by donors to the College. Those that are not are funded by the College’s unrestricted income, therefore all
Have you noticed the ‘Name a Chair’ appeal on the College website? It gives anybody the opportunity to have an inscription placed on the backrest of a chair in the Dining Hall, in exchange for a modest donation of £400. Modest for sure in comparison to the life-changing benefits I received from my time at College.

There is satisfaction in dedicating a chair in memory of a family member or to recall one’s own time at College. However I have found even greater pleasure by naming a chair with somebody else’s assistance. I give the donation but we choose the words together. I have now done this several times with bereaved relatives of former College members. Jointly choosing the wording is always quite a challenge because of the brevity and format required. Every letter (and space) of the inscription must count. Choosing invariably leads to a careful recollection and discussion of the interests, activities and achievements of the person’s life. I find that such discussions provide reassurance and comfort to the bereaved; I can show why others care and also wish to remember. Sadness is softened by happier memories and new insights for us both.

The inscription may be small but it is tangible evidence of the thoughts that created it. Done this way my donations have provided an enduring link to the College for friends who may not otherwise feel they have one. They created pleasure all round. There are seats to be taken - just think of the name.

Give a seat

...and share the pleasure.

Geoff Bibby U&G62

Alice Edney (U16)

Alice Edney studied biological natural sciences with a special interest in wildlife conservation. She benefited from receiving the John and Eileen Kelly Cambridge Bursary and a Winston Memorial Trust Bursary since coming to Churchill.

The financial support she received has been vital to her ability to focus on her studies as well as making the most of the opportunities on offer. For example, the funding enabled Alice to accept the offer of an exciting conservation internship in South Africa during the summer’s long vac – an opportunity that provided invaluable experience in wildlife conservation that would otherwise have been closed to her.

‘Ever since I was little I had dreamed of going to Africa. Having been practically brought up inside Colchester Zoo, I’d seen all the animals a hundred times and even heard the lion roaring from my bedroom window. When I learnt that Colchester Zoo’s charity, Action for the Wild, was funding the restoration of a cattle farm into a nature reserve in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, I had to go. I was ready to become a one month summer intern on UmPhafa Private Nature Reserve’.

You can read all about Alice’s incredible experiences and the lessons she learned by reading her full travel report on the Churchill website: www.chu.cam.ac.uk/funding-travel-abroad

Read Alice’s full story:
www.chu.cam.ac.uk/support-our-students

Churchill has one of the highest proportions of undergraduate entrants from the state sector amongst Oxbridge Colleges. Over 100 Churchill undergraduates currently receive a Cambridge Bursary, the majority receiving a full bursary of £3,500 per year. Funding Cambridge Bursaries currently costs the College over £300,000 per year. Hardship bursaries are also awarded to both undergraduates and postgraduates where unexpected and urgent financial need has suddenly emerged.

We have historically excelled as a College around the provision of student bursaries, thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends of the College. It is vital that the College continues to have at its disposal the funds to help those in genuine financial need.

We also have the Winston Churchill Top-Up Bursaries, which give those with parental incomes of under £25,000 per year an extra £2,000 of funding, as well as the Cambridge Bursary funding. In 2019 we launched the 1960 Club, which raises funds for the Winston Churchill top-up bursaries. All those donating £1,960 are eligible to join this and are invited to a annual event hosted by the Master. The 1960 Club was inspired by alumnus Peter Gershon (U66), who wishes to encourage more alumni to support current students who face financial challenges as social mobility has diminished in recent years.

There are many more stories of students who have been helped by alumni donations on our website:
www.chu.cam.ac.uk/support-our-students
Dr Matt Bullimore, Churchill’s Widening Participation Officer, describes the regular outreach work of the College and gives an update on some of the current projects being delivered by the team. Matt came into the role last year with a background working in theological education with two degrees from the University as well as having studied at Manchester and Harvard. He has spent most of his working life on the border of West and South Yorkshire in communities challenged by long-term deprivation. His commitment to widening participation through education began whilst he was a chair of governors for a primary school and a governor at an academy in a mining village near Barnsley where he was also chair of the advisory board of the local Children’s Centre.

'Widening participation' has never struck me as an elegant phrase. It does, however, have the merit of describing what it is that we are aiming to do and more so than analogous terms like ‘access’ or ‘outreach’. Our work is intended to widen participation in higher education. This means that we are engaged in recruitment activities on behalf of the University and the College. But it also means that we are providing a service that is successful whenever it raises aspiration and encourages people to apply for courses in university settings that they would not previously have considered.

There are three of us regularly engaged in widening participation activities at Churchill but we do so as part of a close-knit and supportive team. I engage with schools in England. Jonathan Padley, the Admissions Tutor and my predecessor as Widening Participation Officer, provides our engagement with Welsh schools and colleges. Xina Moss brings expertise from her work at the Cambridge Admissions Office and provides occasional assistance with visits and our open days. We receive invaluable support and encouragement from Liz Neal, the Admissions Officer, and Gemma Turner, the Tutorial Assistant, who work alongside us in the Admissions Office. Strategically overseeing all that we do is the Senior Tutor, Richard Partington.

All Colleges are linked to specific areas and our work is concentrated in South Wales and Powys, Sussex and Surrey, and in the London Boroughs of Sutton, Croydon and Merton. It is worth noting that by some quirk of the system, Churchill has responsibility for more pupils, schools and local authority areas than any other single College. We keep busy.

In the main our work aims to reduce barriers to accessing the best and most suitable higher education institutions for prospective candidates and so increase opportunity. What does that mean in practice? For pupils studying for their GCSEs we give advice on subject choices for sixth form and why these matter for progression to HE. At sixth form level, we encourage and enable pupils to explore their subject interests over and above their curricula (sometimes called ‘super-curricular’ study) and so help them to make stronger applications. For those in the last year of secondary education we will provide more focused support for those applying to Oxbridge.

That is our bread and butter but it is part of a wide range of other activities. For example, we host programmes delivered by the Brilliant Club, which uses PhD students as mentors for school pupils aged 11–18. The College provides accommodation, space and refreshment for both widening participation charities and the various programmes organised centrally by the University. We support the outreach work of departments and faculties and so, for instance, last year we started giving College tours and providing information and guidance sessions for pupils who have come to enjoy the Cambridge Physics Experience at the Cavendish laboratory.

There are some particular ongoing and new ventures that are worth mentioning. The efforts of Jonathan Padley have meant that Churchill was instrumental in assisting the Welsh Government design and implement the Seren Network. By systematically engaging academically able pupils in Wales through teacher-led subject exploration sessions, we have seen high quality applications from Welsh pupils to Cambridge increasing over the past five years. This has seen a corresponding rise in the number of offers and acceptances of places: in the 2019 admissions round, over 30% of state-educated Welsh applicants to Cambridge received an offer – a fantastic success rate. Churchill remains committed to developing the Seren Network as it rolls out to younger pupils through supporting regional coordinators of the Network, most recently with a residential event at the University last year.

In our link area of Croydon we have begun work with the Council to establish a super-curricular hub amongst the schools and colleges based on the model of our successful Welsh work.

Alongside this we are beginning a project for black pupils in year 9 from Croydon that aims to ensure that academically able students will strongly consider going into sixth form and then work towards selective entry universities. It is not designed to engage the most academically able pupils already on track for academic success. Rather, it aims to nurture pupils with the potential to achieve well if mentored over time; candidates who would be unlikely to self-select for university mentoring schemes and other outreach opportunities.

The focus of the project is aspiration, leadership and community. We want pupils to be able to discuss what they believe to be barriers to and opportunities for BME leadership in the UK today. It will introduce pupils (directly and indirectly) to a variety of black leaders and, not looking a gift horse in the mouth, we will use our Churchillian heritage to provide some venues, talking points...
and local interest. The project will continue to be rolled out for pupils in subsequent years as they work towards their GCSEs. It is our hope that it will enable pupils to see themselves as the future of the UK, as active agents of change and as community leaders. We want pupils to be able to see how education empowers them to be all that they can be and also help them to access the best education available.

We are also planning an event in the Spring with some London sixth form education providers focusing on one of our perennial concerns, which is widening the participation of female students in science, engineering and maths-based subjects.

All of this widening participation work is not merely a one-way street, something that the College and the University provides for its link areas. It is most definitely for our benefit. Whilst Cambridge has an agreement with the Office for Students to widen participation to make the University as representative as possible, it is clearly in the best interests of the University to increase the diversity of its student intake – so that they will contribute insights from the widest range of backgrounds, heritages and standpoints. Richard Partington has said that he passionately believes in facilitating social mobility through access to university, that he is equally committed to maintaining the highest academic standards and that, indeed, these two objectives go hand-in-hand. For the University to excel in all fields then it needs to attract the most agile minds as it can, irrespective of where they come from, and take advantage of the full diversity of the experience and expertise they bring. Universities thrive when they widen participation.

The College is also aware that in educating the most intellectually able people we are equipping the next generation. Our entry in the next hard-copy University prospectus will note that Winston Churchill created the College: to confront through technology the challenges facing Britain and the world. Today this vision is more relevant than ever. Students in the arts and humanities, as well as in science and technology, will become the researchers and policy-makers of the future, urgently responding – dynamically, logically and creatively – to great global questions such as social justice and climate change.

It is with this mind that we continue to strive to widen participation and increase access to educational opportunity, whether at this University or at the many of the other excellent universities in this country and across the world.

From August 2018 – July 2019:
63 events
Meaningfully engaging with: 7721 students, aged 15–18
From 232 schools and colleges
Delivering 433 separate year group sessions with those schools
396 out of those 433 engagements were with pupils in the state sector (91.45%).

Open Days:
April – a sciences open day (168 students, 85 parents)
April – a humanities open day (25 students, 22 parents)
May – a maths open day in conjunction with the Centre for Mathematical Sciences (37 students, 47 parents)
July – an event for prospective medical students (137 students)
July – two University & Colleges open days (c.950 pupils +1425 parents)
July – open evening programme run alongside the University open days (166 pupils from 18 schools) in conjunction with the Swansea HE+ residential (19 students, 4 staff)
September – a joint sciences and humanities open day (106 students, 54 parents, 8 staff)

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Students engaged by link area:
Croydon – 410
Sutton – 619
Merton – 234
Sussex – 1886
South Wales & Powys – 2630
Surrey – 1026

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Totals:
Open day/evening events – 8
Pupils – c.1600
Parents – c.1630

1067 parents and carers
528 teachers
Events 2018–19

It’s been another extremely busy year in the Alumni and Development Office, as we have worked hard to produce a really full programme of events for our alumni and friends of the College. We have continued to offer networking opportunities with a specific industry focus in our Churchill Business Network series in London, as well as a number of talks and reunion opportunities. The following gives a brief overview of some of the events that we have offered over the summer vacation 2018 and the 2018–19 academic year.

In July 2018 we held our usual 2 Reunion Dinner events: our large-scale black tie event for those who matriculated in 2005–9, and continuing our new tradition of offering a smaller dinner to celebrate the 50th anniversary of matriculation, so for those who joined in 1968. Despite the melting heat of that summer (guests were very pleased the College didn’t try to enforce jacket-wearing!), both dinners were fantastic occasions, and the more than warm temperature in Hall didn’t seem to stop attendees from having a great time.
Later that month a small group of us met for after-work drinks at the Six rooftop bar of the Varsity Hotel. We in the office were somewhat anxious when we discovered that England’s surprising performance in the World Cup meant that it clashed with the semi-final match pitting them against Croatia. As it happened, some of our alumni were actively trying to escape from the beautiful game and the Alumni Officer and Development Director were not left to attack the cocktails alone. We hope to run a similar event in the future at the Møller Centre Tower Bar here so local alumni, do keep an eye out!

That September, just before the students returned, we hosted our annual Association Weekend, coinciding with the University’s Alumni Festival, to which all alumni are invited. The Weekend was somewhat smaller than the previous year where we had celebrated the life of our Founding Master Sir John Cockcroft, but was certainly not lacking in fun. Alumna and former Chair of BAFTA, Anne Morrison (U78) gave a thought-provoking and incredibly amusing after-dinner speech, in which she reflected on her own experiences as an undergraduate at Churchill, whilst exploring more general issues of inclusion and diversity around the arts and media.

We offered not one, but two, London pub nights during the Michaelmas term! The first in October thanks to organisation by alumnus Grayden Reece-Smith (U07), and the second in November in which we joined up with Corpus Christie to meet up with alumni from both Colleges. Not everyone could attend who would have liked to, but we have seen a real appetite for this sort of informal event, and will be running more in future.

Also that November we ran one of our Business Network evenings at the Oxford and Cambridge Club in London, centred on the finance industry. These events are justifiably popular, providing an opportunity to hear from industry experts and spend time networking with others in the field. Do come along if you spot one relevant to your career and can be in London during
the early evening. We also welcome ideas for themes and speakers – especially from alumni who can offer a venue to host such a gathering.

We concluded a particularly hectic November with one of our Conversation events at College between the Master and prominent female academics: this time with the astrophysicist and winner of the Special Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics, Jocelyn Bell Burnell.

Despite the busy month, we didn’t put our feet up for Christmas at the beginning of December! In the same week we invited alumni to join current Master, Professor Dame Athene Donald, along with one of our former Masters, Lord Alec Broers, for dinner at the Oxford and Cambridge Club. The lovely evening was followed next day by our trip to the Varsity rugby matches at Twickenham. This year, rather than sitting on the cold terraces, we took 2 adjoining boxes, so we could warm up between matches and enjoy a superb buffet lunch. Drinks service to the terraces by the box doors was a distinct bonus too! We are now making this an annual trip so do come along in December.

On the same day as the Varsity match, our former Bursar, Jennifer Brook, hosted an alumni lunch in Bath. We seem to have a large group in that area, many of whom were really keen for an opportunity to meet up with other Churchillians and Jennifer will definitely be hosting more of these.

Things got busy again in March 2019 as we held a particularly special Conversation event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the College Governing Body meeting in 1969 where the College voted to admit women. This serendipitously coincided with International Women’s Day and the Master chatted with Professor Alison Finch, one of the first female Fellows at College.

A few days later alumnus, Honorary Fellow and Justice of the Supreme Court, Lord Philip Sales (U80), gave a fascinating talk about the role and independence of the judiciary, and its relationship to Parliament. (Lord Sales was later one of the 11 Supreme Court judges to preside on whether Boris Johnson’s prorogation of Parliament was legal.) The talk was fantastically well attended and hosted at Freshfields in London, thanks to alumnus Mark Watterson (U82).

These were followed in the same month by our annual events, the Computer Science lecture, and Alex Hopkins lecture, in memory of the Churchill student and Fellow who is still remembered fondly by many.

Spring continued to be busy with our dinner for those younger alumni about to proceed to their MA in April, closely followed by our annual Enterprise Competition, in which students and alumni pitch their ideas to a panel to win a sum to help make them a reality.

On the first May bank holiday weekend we returned to Oxford for our annual visit to High Table at our Sister College, Trinity. Shortly after which the Master was again in Conversation here at College, this time with Professor Melanie Welham, Executive Chair of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council. At the end of that month we were treated to another fantastic talk by another Honorary Fellow, Sir Paul Nurse. He spoke to a capacity crowd at the Institute of Directors in London on the theme of Science as Revolution.

The coming year looks to be just as full of opportunities to meet fellow Churchillians, reunite with old friends and hear from some amazing speakers. We are always keen to offer events in places where we have alumni aside from Cambridge and London, so do get in touch if you would like to see something happen near you, especially if you can provide a venue!

Do keep an eye on our events page at www.chu.cam.ac.uk/alumni/events to see what we have coming up!
It has been another busy year of International events with a range of events for our international alumni community.

We took part in various events to mark the University’s ‘Dear World, yours Cambridge’ fundraising campaign, of which we are a part. The Development Director Fran Malarée attended the campaign event in New York and in Hong Kong. In Hong Kong we also hosted an alumni dinner, with many thanks to KK Chan (G86) for helping us organise it, at the China Club. Some 15 alumni attended.

We also were delighted to co-host an event with Cambridge in America in September, a conversation between the Master, Professor Dame Athene Donald, and Dr Liz O’Day the founder of Olaris Inc. (see detail below).

KK Chan also hosted current Fellow Professor Sir Mike Gregory in Hong Kong in September and several events including one on educational opportunities and investment in arts, in conjunction with Christie’s auction house. We have a vibrant group in Hong Kong so if you would like to join KK’s mailing list please email us on alumni@chu.cam.ac.uk

Conversation with Liz O’Day (G06)

On September 16, Master of Churchill, Professor Dame Athene Donald, travelled to New York to attend a CAm hosted reception and talk on leadership and women in science with Churchill alumna Dr. Elizabeth O’Day (U06). Attended by 30 alumni and friends, the conversation focused on Dr O’Day’s career journey and her observations-in-the-field as a leader and woman in science.

In addition to her roles as CEO of Olaris Therapeutics, founder of Lizzard Fashion, and founder of two non-profit organisations, Dr O’Day is the co-chair of the World Economic Forum’s Global Future Council on Biotechnology, and as a ‘nominated change maker’, she was invited to the first United State of Women Summit convened by the White House. During the conversation, Dr O’Day shared her personal story of wishing to cure cancer as a direct result of her brother’s own childhood battle with the disease (and now complete remission), ultimately leading her to found Olaris Therapeutics, a precision medicine company that identifies ‘biomarkers of response’ (BoR) to stratify patients into optimal treatment groups, increasing survival rates, decreasing adverse events, and reducing unnecessary healthcare costs.

The conversation also covered gender imbalance in science practitioners, and Dr. O’Day said quite simply that science is sometimes presented as a masculine pursuit, and a field that may be seen as boring, but that in her experience, nothing could be further from the truth, and the growing numbers of women in the field is encouraging.

We were pleased to host an event at the University Club of Toronto for our alumni in the area. Alumnus Bruce Simpson (U80) of McKinsey Canada and the Master, spoke about the challenges of leadership. Simpson spoke about global trends that are currently challenging corporate and institutional leaders, as well as governmental actors, such as the growing complexity of supply chains, the growing population and urbanisation of the world (and consequent demands on energy supply), an ageing population in the ‘west’, the challenges of technology and implications for surveillance and control as well as the opportunities it provides, and growing political and economic volatility.

Simpson identified some of the major forces affecting leaders today as well as several traits leaders needed to exhibit in order to manage these challenges, including the ability to be agile and work bring broad stakeholder thinking to bear on multiple issues.

Dame Athene spoke about the challenges faced by some world leaders and how some lessons from the past might inform the leaders of today. The challenges of climate change, for example, were spotted early on by Margaret Thatcher, whose papers are in the College’s archives: she saw early on how human action would influence the atmosphere. There were other salutary lessons from the archives and Winston Churchill’s own wartime leadership. His belief in scientific progress was also far-sighted for a leader of his (Victorian) generation. Both speakers also mentioned the challenges faced by women leaders.

There was a lively question and answer session after the talk including questions on how Canada might benefit from development of technological clusters, and leading on from the gender issues round leadership.
The Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University, Professor Stephen Toope, formally opened the new graduate housing at 36 Storey’s Way on 27 September. Around 300 guests and current members of the College braved rather wet weather to witness the opening of the new buildings. The Vice-Chancellor quoted Sir Winston’s speech ‘that we shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us’ and commented on the quality of the accommodation that was being offered by the College.

The houses, designed by architects Cottrell and Vermeulen with Barnes Construction as the building contractor, echo the College’s existing architectural style, and in particular the three current graduate houses named Bondi, Broers and Hawthorne houses and affectionately known as the ‘pepperpots’. These were designed by the same firm of architects and opened in the early 2000s. The new houses include features such as handmade hanging tiles, copper roofing, wooden floors and terrazzo window seats in the interior. The architecture is intended to reflect both the original College buildings and the Arts and Crafts houses on Storey’s Way.

The new housing is comprised of 30 en-suite student rooms and five studio flats to house graduate students at Churchill College. The new accommodation means that the College will be able to offer housing for all of its graduate students on-site for at least two years of study, so that they can enjoy being part of the College community and access all academic, social and dining facilities on campus.

The new housing was financed mainly by fundraising with £3million of the £5million cost contribute by generous donors to the College. Over three hundred alumni made donations to help build these new houses, with many donors being former graduate students of the College. Anonymous donors also provided £350,000 of matching funding.

The Master of the College, Professor Dame Athene Donald FRS said:

‘We want to make sure we are at the forefront of provision for all of our graduate students. The award-winning Bondi, Broers and Hawthorne graduate houses have worked fantastically well and we’re delighted that we chose the same firm of architects for the new housing. The new houses provide a uniform approach and give a strong sense of a graduate community in the West corner of our site.’
We were delighted that the Xiaotian Fu Garden, at number 72 Storey’s Way, was formally opened by the Master, Professor Dame Athene Donald, and Xiaotian Fu (G06). Xiaotian is a journalist for Phoenix TV and an alumna of Churchill. She has interviewed many world leaders, including Angela Merkel and Ban-ki Moon – she also reported from Libya during its civil war, and most recently has interviewed the University’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stephen Toope, for Phoenix TV.

The College has named the garden after her in recognition of her generous support of learning and research, as well as her donation to landscape the garden.

At the opening, Xiaotian remarked that the garden was symbolic of the ties between her home region of Chongqing and Cambridge and that: ‘education is not a matter of how many years you spend in school or how prestigious your university is in the world. It’s a matter of capability of learning, curiosity for life, courage when facing the unknown and resilience when challenged by adversity.’

**About the Xiaotian Fu Garden**

The garden was designed by John Moore (Head of Grounds & Gardens). The houses were originally private homes built in the early twentieth century in the Arts and Crafts style and the garden acts as a counterpoint between these houses and the Modernist Brutalism of the College’s 1960s buildings. The design is based on a College courtyard, being square with four exits in offset corners. The brick benches are a nod to the 1960s and the oak pergolas are intended to represent entrance colonnades. The clay paviors, recycled Cambridge white bricks and green oak complement the architecture of the buildings.

The design is bold and generous with large oversized components such as the steps down into the garden. The planting is a mix of roses and herbaceous plants and includes plants named after Sir Winston Churchill. Many of the plants originate from China including Wisteria sinensis ‘Alba’, the white-form of Chinese wisteria that will twist around the columns of the oak pergolas.

Central to the design are two large limestone rocks which were transported from China by Xiaotian. Originating from the Three Gorges region, from a mountainous stretch along the Yangtze River, between Chongqing (her hometown) and Yichang cities, one stone, named ‘The Screen’ marks the path into the garden while the other, named ‘The Reading Gal’, forms the centrepiece of the garden.

A secluded, private space, the Xiaotian Fu Garden provides a tranquil and beautiful area for students and Fellows to work outside whilst still being close to the main College buildings.
Sir John Boyd  
(1936–2019)  

Sir John was the Master of Churchill from 1996–2006, having previously been the British Ambassador to Japan from 1992–96. During his time as Master, Sir John was also announced as the chairman of the British Museum in 2001 having previously been a trustee of the museum for five years, working closely with the Museum’s Department of Japanese Antiquities.

Speaking in 2018 of his time as Master of Churchill, Sir John recalled:

'We were extraordinarily lucky and happy to come to Churchill and we never regretted it for a day. All the main points about Churchill were things that were very near to our hearts: the flexibility and the strong talent, offset by this kind of family feeling. The lovely link with Mary Soames in particular was always a joy. The link with Mr Møller also. He was a lovely man – so careful and courteous. And then the other major thing was that Julia and I could both be involved and it was the ultimate happiness for us both as a couple and each doing our thing in the College.'

There was a low point when I had a stroke and others I knew in Cambridge or elsewhere had been pretty much waved goodbye by their colleges when they got seriously sick. So, it was one of the most human and lovely things the College did was to tell me: “take your time, we want you back”.

Educated at Clare College, Cambridge and Yale, Sir John joined the Foreign Office in 1962, where he was sent to Hong Kong almost immediately to continue his language studies in Chinese, before returning to the UK in 1967 to work in the Northern and then First Eastern Departments. In 1969 he was sent to Washington where he – in his words – ‘was covering the Nixon phenomenon, Kissinger’s re-balancing of the world [and] Mel Laird’s managing of the Pentagon.’ In 1973 he moved back to China, before heading to Bonn as Counsellor Economic in 1977. In 1981 he went to the United Nations in New York, where he was ‘responsible for the Economic and Social Council, the Second Committee, which was economic affairs, the Third Committee of the General Assembly, which was social affairs, and a whole range of relations with the Specialised Agencies – population people, development people, food people and so on.’

After New York Sir John returned to the Foreign Office as an Assistant Under Secretary of State in 1984, before becoming political advisor to Hong Kong in 1985. After two years in this role he returned to the UK to become Deputy Under-Secretary of State (Defence and Intelligence), a role which he said ‘suited us in family terms to bring up our small family in the UK for a change. We lived in a tiny basement in SW1 and I walked to the Office. It worked out well.’ He then became Chief Clerk from 1989–92 before moving to Tokyo in his final role before joining Churchill College.

Speaking about his long and varied career that spanned 3 continents in an interview in 1999, when asked if he would do it again Sir John said ‘Without hesitation. I always thought when I was young that I would probably pursue the family traditions of medicine or academia. I thought, or persuaded myself, that that is what I wanted to do and had periodic chews at it, none of which was totally satisfactory. I think that probably up until my last year at Cambridge I thought I would be an academic of some kind, but I am profoundly glad I wasn’t. The Service provides a perfect home for people like me, who want to be active, but who are not actually first class academics; there are lots of people in the Foreign Office much brighter than me but they were nice tolerant colleagues and one could make some use of one’s life. So I have absolutely no regrets and I am just very lucky that I have this [Master of Churchill] as a cherry on top of the cake at the end of it, largely by luck.’

Remembering Sir John, Director of the Churchill Archives Centre, Allen Packwood said, ‘He was a great supporter of the Churchill Archives Centre and his personal diplomacy undoubtedly helped us acquire many important collections. He knew everybody and was liked by everyone.’

Rosemary Saunders, who was Sir John’s Personal Assistant for many years said, ‘Sir John was a remarkable person to work for. He was thoughtful and supportive and I will always remember John with high esteem. I consider myself extremely fortunate to have known him both professionally and personally, sharing many happy occasions with both he and Julia.’

Sir John will be recalled with great affection by all those members of the College who knew him during and after his time as Master, and valued him both as a distinguished holder of that post and as a fine person.

Image above L-R: Lord Howe, Sir Malcolm Rifkind, Sir John Boyd and Lord Hurd. Taken at the Foreign Policy Witness Seminar, 2006
It’s not every day that a Fellow from Churchill College quotes Severus Snape when discussing their work, but for Dr Sander van der Linden, Fellow in Psychological and Behavioural Sciences at Churchill College, it is entirely apt.

Sander came to Cambridge from Yale where he first became interested in the concept of disinformation. Before Donald Trump became president and took the phrase ‘fake news’ into the mainstream, disinformation was being used by many industries. We’ve all seen those 1950s adverts stating that ‘More Doctors Smoke Camels than any other cigarette’, with the assumption being that if the doctor, with all of his expertise, chose to smoke a particular brand, then it must be safe.

But it was the epidemic of fake news online that led Sander to ask, “what is the effect of misinformation on people’s attitudes, and if it’s harmful, what can we do to help prevent the spread of fake news?

Alongside Jon Roozenbeek, a By-Fellow at Churchill College, Sander told us how they looked at epidemiology models of how a virus spreads, and saw that the way disinformation spreads on social networks was incredibly similar. ‘So it’s not that much of a stretch to suggest that if people were inoculated it would halt the spread of disinformation more quickly. It would be more difficult to take hold, and it would be more difficult for the virus to replicate so to speak. Our big idea was that we need to move away from specific issues and inoculate people against the techniques that underlie all fake news.’

Over the course of a year, they looked at commonalities in fake news and identified a number of techniques used, such as polarising people, conspiratorial types of narrative, the use of emotion to persuade people, discrediting others, trolling and impersonation. Armed with his knowledge, they needed to test whether inoculation against a general technique could give people the tools to identify fake news and become resistant to it.

But in what format could a vaccine against fake news even exist? The answer is in Bad News, an online game developed with Dutch media collective DROG, and design agency Gusmanson, that worked like a ‘vaccine’, increasing scepticism of fake news by giving people a ‘weak dose’ of the methods behind disinformation.

To date, half a million users have played the game, and more than 30,000 of those opted into the research. Recognisable as a well known social media site, players had to earn six badges, each reflecting a common strategy used by purveyors of fake news: impersonation, conspiracy, polarisation, discrediting sources, trolling and emotionally provocative content. They were required to stoke anger and fear by manipulating news and social media within the simulation: deploying twitter bots, photo-shopping evidence, and inciting conspiracy theories to attract followers – all while maintaining a ‘credibility score’ for persuasiveness. The results were positive: ‘We found that the game works regardless of age, education and ideology. We’re hopeful that no matter what side someone is on, they can spot fake news more easily once they know about the techniques. Importantly, those who are the most susceptible seem to benefit the most from intervention.’

The success of the game and its results have further surprised Sander. Working with the UK Foreign Office, Bad News has already been translated into many languages, and WhatsApp have commissioned the researchers to create a new game for the messaging platform. Governments are taking the idea of a fake news vaccine seriously.

As the interview wraps up, we ask Sander if his work has made him more or less optimistic about the future. Can we really undo the harm that has already been done?

‘We’re feeling positive based on these results. The post-truth era will require a multi-layered defence system. If you can, pre-bunk. If that’s not possible, the second line of defence is real-time fact checking. If that doesn’t work you can still debunk. There are multiple options.

But pre-bunking should be the first line of defence. If people are immune to fake news, the virus can’t spread.’

Our big idea was that we need to move away from specific issues and inoculate people against the techniques that underlie all fake news.
We are pleased to reveal that CCBC is now sponsored by MathWorks, a mathematical software company known for MatLab and Simulink. MathWorks’ sponsorship will help the Club replace its equipment more regularly and use other donated funds to build up the endowment for boat replacement in the future. Unlike other Clubs, CCBC does not have a large endowment fund to fall back on, therefore annual fundraising for boats has been essential, and with support we can try and use alumni donations to invest in an endowment fund for the long-term future.

We were pleased to trial a new crowdfunding platform with the College Boat Club. CCBC needed funds to replace the first women’s oars, at a cost of £3,500. Thanks to a great video by Katie Kirk (U&G15) (who is now the Overall Captain) and drive from the whole committee last year, the funds were raised within ten days of the call to action going out!

The new blades are now here, and timed perfectly to go with ‘Shall we Fly’ the new Stampfli eight generously donated by Benefactor Fellow Lydia Luckevich to the Boat Club. Lydia’s husband, Don Pinchin (G73) rowed for CCBC for many years and sadly passed away in 2016. Shall we Fly accompanies Shall we Dance which is the first men’s boat.

CCBC has seen a great number of novices join and 2018–19 was a successful year for the Club. Overall Captain from 2018–19 Thomas Upton (U15) writes below.

It’s been a year of resurgence for the club and one that I hope the Club can build on next year, achieving greater things.

As well as the success in races (which we will return to in a minute) the Club tried to give back to others. Around 12 months ago, Silvia Breu, who coached Churchill at the time, sadly passed away. And it was in her memory that CCBC organised a charity ergathon attended by a dozen Cambridge Colleges that raised over £2000 for Cancer Research.

In terms of racing the Club achieved great success in Fairbairns with both first boats recording strong top 10 finishes. In the novice ranks it was NW1 who took the plaudits, after a fantastic performance in Emma Sprints (2nd in their division), they came 6th in the NW category. NM1 were 11th fastest, a very strong performance this year.

In Lents it was great to see so many novices continue and their hard work was rewarded with 5 boats making qualifying for bumps (2 more than the previous year). M2 shone here, finishing +3 and proving their speed.

Fastforward to Mays and CCBC was represented by 6 crews (the first time since 2011). From footship spoons in Lents M3 rose from the ashes to blade in the M4 division. W1 meanwhile increased their position on the river and are now 8th!
Back to the 1970s as Canon Duckworth timepiece restored

Angus Mackay (G70) and Dan Moore (G67), former members of Churchill College Boat Club, donated Canon Duckworth’s rowing timer to the Churchill College Archives Centre.

Angus and Dan rowed ‘Threesacrowd’ for the College Boat Club in many races during their time here (the Coxless pair at Oxford Town Regatta 1973, Henley 1973, Kingston Sprints 1973, Boston Marathon 1973 and Boston Marathon 1977). Earlier this year, Angus finally unpacked some 45-year old rowing kit following the Boston Marathon in 1977, to find the stroke watch used to measure strokes per minute in rowing, which was given to him and Dan by Canon Duckworth on his retirement from College in 1973. It has now been conserved and is safely in the Churchill Archives.

The timer was a gift to the Canon, being inscribed Marya and Alan 6-9-60. Unfortunately nothing is known of this couple. What is certain, he must have used this timepiece to exhort, in his own inimitable manner, hundreds of past members of the Boat Club to ever greater exertions.

Back to 1969!

At the 2019 Mays dinner we were pleased to see a mini-reunion of alumni who also fondly recalled the Canon Duckworth: Bevyn Jarrott, Alan Repko, David Kittelson, Jim Gill, David Levin and Bob Barklie. Six of the nine rowers returned and regaled current club members with various memories of the College in the late 1960s.

Tom Upton (U15), outgoing CCBC Captain, with the restored Duckworth timepiece in the Churchill Archives Centre

Fittingly, CCBC has also just refurbished the boat, Canon Duckworth, thanks partly to donations from alumni; it is now the men’s second boat.

Reunion of four of the crew of the 1969 Churchill 4th May boat (referred to as the ‘Postgraduate’ eight as all nine were doing their PhDs in 1969). Bevyn Jarrott 1st on the left, Jim Gill 3rd on left, David Kittelson first on right and Alan Repko second on right. Sadly, the stroke, Don Pilling died in 2008 after serving as Admiral of the US Navy Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean.

You may also be interested in a comment that the then Master, Professor Hawthorne wrote on my menu at the May Bumps dinner on 7 June 1969: ‘Thank you for arranging to make your bumps where I could see them’.
Churchill Bookshelf
A selection of books by Churchillians published in the last year

David Boyle (U91)
The Mini-Pupillage Workbook
Law Brief Publishing
David Boyle (U91) read Law at Churchill and has 24 years’ experience of personal injury work based at Deans Court Chambers in Manchester. In 2019, he was the first personal injury barrister appointed to the Bar Standards Board’s Associated Pool of Experts (APEX) and is the only civil law practitioner on that panel.

He has a thriving practice across a broad spectrum of complex, high value, high profile and unusual Multi-Track claims, lectures at both undergraduate and postgraduate level and was Head of Mini-Pupillage at Deans Court for 6 years. His book is a guide with twelve key lessons for any prospective lawyer.

Rob Douglas (U67)
Redemption
SilverWood Books Ltd 2019
Humankind is making the planet Earth uninhabitable. But other eyes are watching and redemption may be offered from an unexpected source... Polly Hawkins has been Prime Minister for four years when she is faced with her biggest challenge. A spaceship arrives from another solar system. To everyone’s astonishment, its crew is human. They bring news about mankind’s origins and about threats to mankind. Polly has to manage working with her visitors as well as with her fellow heads of government as it becomes clear that the visitors are not the first to show an interest in the planet.

Judy Holyer (U&G72)
A Maze of Twisty Passages: The life of a student in 1970s Cambridge and what came next
2019
Judith Probert, now Holyer, came to Churchill in 1972 as one of its first female undergraduates. This is her thoughtful and poignant memoir, bringing a refreshing look at life in Cambridge, where, studying mathematics to a high level, she met many well-known people, including two successive Lucasian Professors, James Lighthill and Stephen Hawking. After obtaining a doctorate in fluid dynamics, she became a Junior Research Fellow at Girton College and worked as a Research Scientist at University start-up company, Topexpress Ltd. In 1981 she moved to Bristol to take up a lectureship in mathematics at the university. After seven years her world turned upside down and she changed career, training as a Baptist Minister and acquiring a second BA in theology. After ordination, Judy became Free Church Chaplain to Bristol University and later Baptist Chaplain at the University of the West of England, finally embarking on a third career, co-founding a tech start-up company, Degree2 Innovations, for which she co-created the patents. She has become a Quaker and now leads a quiet, contemplative life in Bristol.

Rosie Johnston (U73)
Six-Count Jive
Lapwing 2019
Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is talked about all over the place but what does it feel like? Six-Count Jive describes the inner landscape of PTSD in a unique story of healing, from diagnosis to happiness. The gripping narrative takes the reader through the protagonist’s process back to happiness. In its deliberate brevity it invites us to mine for layers of meaning and rewards constant re-reading. Its back story and message of survival are life affirming but significantly, this is not an exercise in therapy, instead, Six-Count Jive is a superb piece of art.
There are more factors to consider in order to be a successful management consultant than simply subject matter knowledge. Problem solving and solution delivery have to be accomplished in usually tight project timescales, while keeping clients happy. This book, based on the experience of training thousands of consultants, provides insights into the key processes of selling and delivering consulting services, together with the commercial imperatives for running a successful consulting practice.

Allen Packwood (Director of the Archives Centre)  
How Churchill Waged War  
Pen and Sword Books 2019

When Winston Churchill accepted the position of Prime Minister in May 1940, he insisted in also becoming Minister of Defence. He was not going to play the chairman's role, adjudicating between the competing claims of the ministers below him. He was going to get his hands dirty and take direct personal control of the day-to-day running of military policy. This, though, meant that he alone would be responsible for the success or failure of Britain’s war effort. It also meant that he would be faced with many monumental challenges and utterly crucial decisions upon which the fate of Britain and the free world rested. In this insightful investigation into Churchill's conduct during the Second World War, Allen Packwood enables the reader to share the agonies and uncertainties faced by Churchill at each crucial stage of the war. How Churchill responded to each challenge is analysed in great detail and the conclusions are as uncompromising as those made by Britain's wartime leader as he negotiated his country through its darkest days.

Dr Himanshu Prabha Ray (G79)  
Buddhism and Gandhara: An Archaeology of Museum Collections (editor)  
Routledge 2018

Gandhara is a name central to Buddhist heritage and iconography. It is the ancient name of a region in present-day Pakistan, bounded on the west by the Hindu Kush mountain range and to the north by the foothills of the Himalayas. ‘Gandhara’ is also the term given to this region's sculptural and architectural features between the first and sixth centuries CE. This book re-examines the archaeological material excavated in the region in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and traces the link between archaeological work, histories of museum collections and related interpretations by art historians.

Dr Lucia Ruprecht (Past By Fellow)  
Gestural Imaginaries: Dance and Cultural Theory in the Early Twentieth Century  
Oxford University Press 2019

This book offers a new interpretation of European modernist dance by addressing it as guiding medium in a vibrant field of gestural culture that ranged across art and philosophy. Close readings of dances, photographs, and literary texts are juxtaposed with discussions of gestural theory by thinkers including Walter Benjamin, Sigmund Freud and Aby Warburg. Choreographic gesture is defined as a force of intermittency that creates a new theoretical status of dance, which also bears on contemporary theory. Mobilizing dance history and movement analysis, Ruprecht highlights the critical impact of works by choreographers such as Vaslav Nijinsky, Jo Mihaly, and Alexander and Clotilde Sakharoff. She also offers choreographic readings of Franz Kafka and Alfred Doblin. Gestural Imaginaries proposes that modernist dance conducts a gestural revolution that enacts but also exceeds the insights of past and present cultural theory. It makes a case for archive-based, cross-medial, and critically informed dance studies, transnational German studies, and the theoretical potential of performance itself.

Chloe Turner (U95)  
Witches Sail in Eggshells and other stories  
Reflex Press 2019

A seaside community is overwhelmed when the sea begins to expel its life forms. But the villagers would rather raise the sea wall, whatever the cost, than confront their past mistakes. A woman’s beloved garden withers as the baby inside her flourishes. When the pregnancy reaches its end, the progeny is not as she expects. A widower feels like flourishing. But the villagers
DIARY OF EVENTS

Please see our website for forthcoming events as due to the coronavirus pandemic the dates of events are being revised at present. A listing is available at www.chu.cam.ac.uk/events